

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 187015 TOSEC 080208  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES:SKG  
APPROVED BY D:MR.CHRISTOPHER  
-----041705 090121Z /62

O 090101Z AUG 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 187015 TOSEC 080208

NODIS  
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR UR XF US

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: SECTO 8086

1. FOLLOWING ARE PROPOSED TALKING POINTS I WOULD USE WITH VASEV. TONE IS DESIGNED TO CONVEY "REGRET" RATHER THAN "ANGER" AT SOVIET DEMARCHE. AT END WE TAKE OCCASION TO REMIND SOVIETS THAT THEIR BITTER MEDIA ATTACKS AGAINST YOUR TRIP ARE HARDLY CONSISTENT WITH GENEVA UNDERSTANDING.

2. BEGIN TALKING POINTS.

-- WE ARE SURPRISED THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE SUCH DEMARCHE ON BASIS OF PARTIAL AND INACCURATE MEDIA REPORTS.

-- COMPLETE PUBLIC RECORD OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS MAKES SECRET

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CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY VASEV ARE UNFOUNDED.

-- THE SECRETARY HAS STATED TO ALL CONCERNED ON TRIP, PRIVATELY AS WELL AS PUBLICLY, THAT UNITED STATES REMAINS COMMITTED TO GOAL OF EARLY RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON OF

JULY 29, AND AGAIN IN TALKING WITH THE PRESS IN AMMAN ON AUGUST 6, HE REPEATED OUR HOPE AND GOAL THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD BE RECONVENED BY END OF YEAR.

-- THERE IS LOGICAL CONNECTION BETWEEN GOAL OF EARLY RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS DESIGNED TO ENSURE, FIRST, AGREEMENT BY PARTIES CONCERNED THAT CONFERENCE INDEED WILL BE RECONVENED AT EARLIEST FEASIBLE DATE; AND SECOND, THAT ONCE RECONVENED, CONFERENCE HAS BEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS. INDEED, FOREGOING IS RATIONALE FOR THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT TRIP. AS THE SECRETARY HAS ALSO MADE CLEAR, FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED AFTER THE SECRETARY'S PRESENT TRIP. PERIOD OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS LOGICAL TIME FOR SUCH ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS, FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE OF WHICH WOULD BE TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM TOWARD RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS YEAR. I WISH TO NOTE THAT THE SECRETARY SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF SUCH ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN SEPTEMBER IN CONNECTION WITH UNGA AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 29.

-- AS YOU KNOW AT THAT TIME THE SECRETARY ALSO EXPRESSED DESIRE TO SEE AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR CHINA "SO WE CAN DISCUSS HOW GROMYKO AND I MAY USEFULLY WORK FURTHER AS CO-CHAIRMEN." IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 29 THE SECRETARY STATED OUR INTENTION TO WORK CLOSELY WITH USSR AS CO-CHAIRMAN. ALSO, ON HIS TRIP, THE SECRETARY

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PUBLICLY STATED HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING MIDDLE EAST AND POSSIBLE SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN ANY "WORKING GROUPS" WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO, (OBVIOUSLY IN VIENNA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER) AS EARLY AS AUGUST 2 IN ALEXANDRIA. IN VIEW OF THIS FACTUAL DEMONSTRATION OF COOPERATION, WE FIND IT EVEN MORE SURPRISING THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD JUMP TO SUCH CONCLUSIONS ON BASIS OF ERRONEOUS, PARTIAL NEWS REPORTS.

-- WE SUGGEST THAT IN FUTURE, SOVIET GOVERNMENT TAKE OCCASION TO ENSURE IT HAS ADEQUATE INFORMATION PRIOR TO ARRIVING AT ERRONEOUS CONCLUSIONS. IN CURRENT CASE, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO CLARIFY SITUATION ON REQUEST, AND "APPREHENSIONS" EXPRESSED BY VASEV NEED NEVER HAVE ARisen.

-- I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT TRIP IS COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH UNDERSTANDING IN MAY AT GENEVA. IN SPIRIT OF THIS UNDERSTANDING, WE HAVE HELD PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION. MOST RECENT OF THESE TOOK PLACE WITH VASEV AT THE SECRETARY'S INITIATIVE ON JULY 30, AT WHICH TIME THE SECRETARY CANDIDLY DISCUSSED PURPOSES OF HIS VISIT.

-- SINCE SOVIET UNION TOOK INITIATIVE TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERNs, I MUST TAKE OCCASION TO EXPRESS OUR SURPRISE AND FRANKLY REGRET THAT OFFICIAL SOVIET MEDIA HAVE LAUNCHED BITTER CAMPAIGN ATTACKING THE SECRETARY'S TRIP AND MOTIVES BEHIND U.S. POLICY.

-- SUCH ACTION IS HARDLY CONSISTENT WITH LETTER AND SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING AT GENEVA IN MAY; SINCE ITS ONLY POSSIBLE EFFECT WOULD BE TO HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON PROCESS OF OBTAINING AGREEMENT AMONG PARTIES, CURRENT CAMPAIGN IS WHOLLY CONTRADICTORY TO GENEVA UNDERSTANDING. WE TRUST THAT THIS IS NOT ACCURATE REFLECTION OF SOVIET POLICY AND HOPE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THAT ITS OFFICIAL MEDIA DO NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT ON GOAL OF

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EARLY RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

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CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 01 STATE 187015  
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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O JTHYDEN

APPROVED BY: S/S-O THYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 187015

NODIS  
WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT 187015 ACTION USDEL SECRETARY INFO MOSCOW AUG 09.

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 187015 TOSEC 080208

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CHRISTOPHER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, PDEV, UR, XF, US  
**To:** SECRETARY MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/cf75635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009